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SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1967

Medical Officer of Health: NOEL. F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector: W. N. TEASDALE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

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M.O.H. Ann. Rpt. Shaftesbury B.C. 1967.
Miss Wright E203

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Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

May, 1968.

To The Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors,
Shaftesbury Borough Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1967.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959.

Allowing for the smallness of numbers under consideration, the vital statistics compare favourably with those for the Country as a whole.

There was no increased incidence of notifiable disease.

I am indebted to Mr. Teasdale, your Public Health Inspector, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to Mrs. J. Williamson for her efficient services as my Clerk during the year.

I would also like to thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

SHAFTESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 6 7

A. Area - 1,078 acres.
Rateable Value: 1st April, 1968 .. .. £148,163
Production of a panny rate: 1967/68 .. .. £534(est)

VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's Estimate).. 3,430
Natural increase in population (births over deaths).. 4

LIVE BIRTHS

	Male	Female		COMPARATIVE RATES Shaftesbury Borough	England & Wales
Total	24	28	Rate per 1,000 resident population = 15.2	19.0.	17.2
Illegitimate	1	4			

STILL BIRTHS

Total	Nil	Nil	Rate per 1,000 live & still-births = Nil	Nil	14.8

DEATHS

Total	25	23	Rate per 1,000 resident population = 14.0	10.8	11.2

DEATHS IN INFANTS

Under 1 year	Nil	Nil	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = Nil	Nil	18.3

Perinatal mortality - Nil Nil 25.4

	1967	1966	1965	1964
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
" " Cancer of the Lungs	6	4	Nil	2
" " Other Cancer	1	5	3	10
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	17	8	4	7
" " Other Heart or Vascular disease	14	11	21	10
" " Influenza	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Pneumonia	5	2	2	1
" " Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
" " All other accidents	1	Nil	1	Nil
" " Suicide	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
" " Leukaemia & aleukaemia	Nil	1	Nil	Nil

B. NATURE OF THE DISTRICT

Shaftesbury is an ancient Borough, with strong historical connections. It is a market town supplying the requirements of the farming community in the surrounding districts.

Its principal industries and trades include glove making and the local central depots for the Southern Electricity Board and Post Office Engineers are stationed there. A Government Radio Station is also within its boundaries. A laundry and egg packing station are recent acquisitions in the Borough. Plans are in hand for further industrial development.

The three factories on the new industrial estate manufacturing television parts and electric organs closed during the year and became occupied by a London firm of anodisers and a Salisbury firm of tube benders and machinery tubes. A further two factories were taken over by a London firm manufacturing springs and another factory was occupied by a local firm manufacturing food products and deep freeze pastry.

C. HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT which are not the responsibility of the Borough Council

THE HOSPITAL SERVICE

The Westminster Memorial Hospital of the Salisbury Group Management Committee of the Wessex Regional Hospital Board provides local hospital facilities, both in-patient and out-patient.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The local ambulance service is provided by the County Council.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The laboratories at Dorchester and Salisbury of the Public Health Laboratory Service cover your district. The service has again proved in every way to be co-operative and efficient.

GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, OPHTHALMIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES

These are administered locally by the Dorset Executive Committee.

COUNTY COUNCIL SERVICES

The personal preventive health services are the responsibility of the County Council.

They comprise the care of mothers and young children, maternity, school health, prophylactic inoculations, home nursing, mental health, the ambulance service, the care and after care of the tuberculous, blind and handicapped, health education, the domestic help service and the welfare of the aged.

DOMESTIC HOME HELP SERVICE

The assistance provided by the domestic home help service is of such incalculable benefit to the needy old people, that it is difficult to recall how these people managed before this service was instituted.

But for this service, on which increasing demands are being made, many old people would be unable to survive in their own homes.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Acknowledgement must be made of the excellent voluntary work carried out in the district by the British Red Cross Society, the Silver Thread Club and the Meals on Wheels Service provided by the W.R.V.S.

Thirty four elderly people benefitted from this valuable service, compared with twenty nine during the preceding year. Not only are the meals appreciated, but, even more (one sometimes thinks) are the twice weekly visits by the helpers who take the meals around.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other district Councils in the North Dorset area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is something less than one half day per week.

Dr. G. B. Hopkins of the Blandford and Wimborne District acts as his deputy during his absence, on a reciprocal voluntary basis.

Public Health Inspector (Part time) - William Norman Teasdale, F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Certificate of R.S.H. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

WATER SUPPLY

All properties in the Borough are served by a public water supply with the exception of one property having a satisfactory private supply. Eighteen properties (thirty seven persons) are, however, still served by stand-pipe supplies.

The public supply is provided by the West Wilts Water Board. Close co-operation has been maintained between Officers of your Council and those of the Board.

Regular sampling of the supply at source, by the Board, has been carried out.

The supply has been satisfactory in quantity and quality throughout the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A new sewer to serve Phases 1 and 2 of the Wincombe Lane housing scheme (84 houses) was completed during the year.

No material progress was made during the year toward the provision of the proposed sewage disposal works at Holyrood Farm.

Complaints of alleged nuisance from the present sewage disposal area have continued to be received, together with requests from farmers outside the Borough for water supplies and troughs to be provided to fields adjoining ditches and streams leading from Holyrood Farm area.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

There has been no change in the weekly curbside collection of refuse and disposal on to the Salisbury Road tip.

With housing and industrial expansion, the quantity of refuse collected continues to increase. Arrangements are being made to extend the tipping area at the Salisbury Road tip by excavations, levelling and back fill. Nevertheless, with plans for more rapid expansion of the town, this problem is going to become more difficult and will require more drastic alteration and improvement.

ROADSIDE SANITATION

No serious public health nuisances have occurred in your Borough from unsatisfactory roadside sanitation. There is one unofficial lay-by on the A30, adjoining the refuse tip, which enables it to have weekly attention.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

One part time Inspector (your Public Health Inspector) was appointed under this Act. The estimated number of premises subject to registration is 75. Registered premises number 69. 54 premises were inspected during the year, 73 inspections being carried out.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961 (Nil figures not given)

	No. of Premises on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	29	94	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	14	26	1
Total	43	120	3

No. of cases in which defects were:	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-
Unsuitable or defective Sanitary Conveniences	1	1	1
	3	3	1

No. of Outworkers (Wearing Apparel) 86

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

No action was called for or taken during the year.

RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT

No premises in the Borough are registered under this Act.

SWIMMING BATHS

There is one public swimming bath in the Borough provided by the Council.

The bacterial purity of the water remained good and the filtration and circulation methods remained the same. At the beginning of the year, the sides of the bath were repaired and then covered with a fibre glass lining. This improved the maintenance and was incidental in reducing the pH value but a higher deposit of grease was found which necessitated the use of special cleansers and more frequent cleaning.

THE CONTROL OF MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are no licensed caravan sites in the Borough.

VERMINOUS PREMISES

No action was called for or taken during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The duties of the Council under the above Act are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee.

The joint scheme operated by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee continues to work very well and prompt action by the operatives in dealing with complaints of infestation keeps the position contstantly under control.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT ACT, 1963

No premises in the Borough are registered under this Act. Under the Act, with certain limited exceptions, any person who carries on a business of providing accommodation for other people's animals, even in a private house, must be registered under this Act, by the Borough Council.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered or licensed under this Act.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered or licensed under this Act.

SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SCHOOL CANTEENS)

In general, conditions remain satisfactory. The Principal School Medical Officer's attention was drawn to certain unsatisfactory conditions at the boarding houses of the Girls High School, in particular, Sunridge.

The new Junior (or Primary) School is still under construction at Mampitts Road and, on completion during 1968, will give vastly improved facilities to those existing at both Holy Trinity and Cann C. of E. Schools.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 & 1951 - Section 47

No action under this Act was required to be taken to effect the compulsory removal of a person requiring care and attention.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

There are two sets of public conveniences in the Borough. At the Bleke Street recreation ground there is one without washing facilities. At the Town Hall (part underground) provision is made for men and women. Washing facilities - cold water with soap and paper towels are now provided.

An additional convenience for both sexes continues to be urgently required at the Coppice Street car park.

HOUSING

Eight new houses were built by the Council during the year and twenty four by private enterprise. The programme for new Council houses during 1968 should meet all the needs of the most urgent cases on the Council's waiting list, if the rents to be charged are within the means of the applicants.

Regrettably, no further provision has been made by the Council for the provision of houses of a type particularly suitable for old persons. However, the re-building of the Chubbs Almshouses and the contemplated provision of this type of dwelling by the Christian Council Housing Association will go some way towards meeting this special need.

Total No. of houses in the district..	1,286
No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year ..	261
No. of inspections made	336
No. of informal notices served..	49
No. of informal notices complied with	43
No. of statutory notices served	Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1958 .. .. Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year.. .. .. Nil

No action was taken under Section 13 of the Housing Act 1964 to carry out inspections to define improvement areas in the Borough.

Overcrowding

No cases of statutory overcrowding were brought to the notice of the Council during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings

Some houses in the Borough are known to be let in lodgings. A survey of the known ones is to be made early in 1968.

Rehousing

Seventeen families were housed by the Council during the year, compared with eighteen during the preceding year.

Housing Applications

At the end of the year there were ninety five applications on the Council's housing waiting list (compared with one hundred and two a year ago) of which fifty were resident in the Borough and forty five resident outside the Borough.

Improvement Grants

Two applications for 'standard' and six for 'discretionary' grants were received during the year, compared with none and four respectively in the preceding year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

No. of 'Dairies' in the district subject to registration .. .. Nil

No. of 'Distributors' subject to registration . .. 6

Samples

Fourteen samples of milk from the Borough were taken and submitted for examination during the year by officers of the County Council. None by officers of the Borough Council.

Brucellosis

No samples were taken specifically for examination for Brucellosis. This examination is carried out as a routine measure by the County Staff, and any positive results notified to me. No such notifications were received during the year.

Milk & Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959
Regulation 20

No action was called for or taken during the year.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

Details of food premises subject to the above are grouped in categories of trade carried on in them and including the following information for each category separately:

Trade	No. of Premises	No. complying to Reg. 16	No. of Reg.19 Premises	No. complying to Reg. 19
Hotels	4	4	4	4
Cafes	3	3	3	3
Public Houses	9	9	9	9
Clubs	6	5	6	6
Church Halls	6	6	6	6
Canteens - Schools	7	7	7	7
Confectioners	4	3	2	2
Meat and Fish	6	6	6	6
Grocers	7	7	7	7
Mixed Stores	3	3	3	3
Food Factories	1	1	1	1
Boarding Schools	3	3	3	3
Others	7	7	7	7
	66	64	64	64

No. of such premises inspected during the year .. 57

No. of inspections carried out 226

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of:

Ice Cream 14
Sausages & Prepared Meats.. 4
Fish & Chips 2

Whilst no infringements of the regulations have been reported, it is a matter of some concern that there is not sufficient staff employed to ensure a regular and routine inspection of all premises in the Borough which come within the provisions of the regulations. Only regular inspections stimulate the highest interest in food hygiene and safety.

No. of samples of ice cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test .. .. Nil

Food Shops and Other Premises

The total quantity of foodstuff condemned during the year was 152 lbs.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the Borough.

LIQUID EGG (PASTEURISATION) REGULATIONS, 1963

There are no pasteurisation plants in the Borough and no samples of liquid egg have been taken for examination.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is no slaughterhouse, now, in the Borough.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS (INCLUDING HOUSING) CARRIED OUT

Total No. of inspections (under all headings).. ..	2,274
Total No. of informal notices served	131
Total No. of informal notices complied with	124
Total No. of statutory notices served	Nil
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
No. of prosecutions	Nil

In the field of public health inspection, less tends to be done each succeeding year due to increased pressure in all branches of the surveying side of the work, not the least being town planning and Building Regulations. Whilst it is known that no great public health nuisances exist on food premises, offices and shops, and in housing, routine inspection is almost non-existent, and when carried out, has to be more or less perfunctory because of the time involved. Neither can records be kept up to date, and with the proposed rapid expansion of the Borough, the difficulties are likely to be further accentuated and become more urgent of solution. One thing is certain that the existing staff will not be able to cope without further technical assistance or the appointment of a public health inspector divorced from the present combined duties of public health inspector and Borough Surveyor.

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Other than Tuberculosis

Disease	Total Cases Notified
Acute pneumonia	3
Measles	34

Tuberculosis	Respiratory	Non-respiratory
New cases notified	Nil	Nil

Food Poisoning

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON
Medical Officer of Health.